

In the Specification

On page 1, please cancel the first line and substitute with the following:

SPECIFICATION

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

“ENTERTAINMENT MACHINE HAVING A SIGNAL-GENERATING DEVICE COUPLED
TO A MOVABLE SYMBOL-BEARING SUPPORT”

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 2, please insert the following between lines 23 and 24:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Thus, as appropriate, the signal-generating device may be operable to produce and maintain actuating signals and/or to produce actuating signals to establish the corresponding symbols at an occasion, such as e.g. at a power-up occasion, ~~the~~ The signal-generating device may then cease ceasing operation leaving display of the symbols maintained by virtue of retentive properties of the support alone and/or by supply of power to the support to effect retention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The signal-generating device may be adapted to operate in a plurality of pre-determined modes corresponding respectively to a plurality of pre-determined different symbol combinations or variations. Alternatively or additionally, provision may be made for adaptation of the signal-generating device at will to produce different symbol combinations or variations as desired, possibly within defined limiting parameters.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Alternatively or additionally, the signal-generating device may operate automatically to change the symbols on any suitable predetermined random or pseudo random basis between or during play as a consequence of game play parameters, selections or events and/or as a consequence of other non-game related parameters.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the case where the signal generating device operates to change the symbols on an automatic basis, this may be under the control of control circuitry of the entertainment machine or otherwise, such as ~~e.g.~~ by a remote control device.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The movable member may take any suitable form. In one embodiment, the member is a rotatable member particularly an axially rotatable reel or drum. In the latter case, the support may be in the form of a flexible or pre-shaped strip mounted in a curved path around or alongside all or part of the outer periphery of the reel or drum so as to face radially outwardly.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a particularly preferred embodiment, the movable member is a rotatable reel of a player-operable coin-operated entertainment machine, especially an amusement with prizes machine or a fruit machine of the kind described above. Thus, the display device of the invention may comprise the main display device of a fruit machine whereby the display device may comprise multiple side-by-side axially rotatable reels each having a respective said signal-actuable support applied thereto.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention is not restricted to movable members in the form of rotatable reels. Other kinds of movable members may also be used such as: (a) a rotatable disc with the support on a face of the disc; (b) wheel or roller drives operable to drive a flexible bands, which may be wholly or partially defined by the said signal-actuable support, around a closed path or loop; or (c) the like.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention is not restricted to application of the main display device of a fruit machine. For example, it is usual for fruit machines to incorporate one or more auxiliary reels for supplementary features such as feature games, gamble features or the like, and the display device of the invention may also be used for such reels.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

If desired, the support may be illuminated in any suitable manner e.g. by back-lighting, reflection or as a consequence of actuation of intrinsic light-producing properties of the support.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The signal-actuable support may be applied to the movable member so as to be movable therewith. Alternatively, the support may be applied to the movable member so that the support is static and the member moves relative to the support; In such embodiment, signal-actuation of the support is being arranged to produce a moving symbol display simulating movement of the symbols together, and preferably in synchronism with the movable member. By way of example, the movable member may comprise a reel with the support mounted inwardly of, and exposed through, an openwork or skeletal reel rim; Alternatively, the movable member or it may comprise a reel with the support mounted outwardly of and exposed alongside a peripheral edge

or edges of a reel rim. The support need only be of a size appropriate to the display zone. That is, for a reel rotatable behind a window such as to display say three symbols, the support need only consist of a corresponding arcuate length.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Thus, and in accordance with a second aspect of the invention there is provided a display device for a player-operable entertainment machine. The display device comprises: ~~comprising~~ (a) at least one movable member arranged to bear symbols for display on the machine; and (b) a signal-generating device, characterised by the provision of a signal-actuable support mounted alongside ~~said the movable member, so that the~~ The movable member is movable relative to the support. The ~~and the~~ symbols are arranged to be produced on such ~~said~~ support in a sequence moving in correspondence with movement of the movable member by supply of signals to the support from the signal-generating device.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Whilst the association of the support with a movable member is preferred, it may also be possible to use a signal-actuable support which is preferably static and not necessarily associated with any movable member. Here, the signal-actuable support ~~but~~ is shaped physically to conform to a simulated path of movement. In the case of simulated reel rotation behind a window, the support may comprise a curved section.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Thus and in accordance with a third aspect of the invention, there is provided a display device for a player-operable entertainment machine. The display device comprises ~~comprising~~ a signal-actuable support, and a signal-generating device. The ~~characterised in that the~~ support is shaped to conform to a simulated path of movement and the symbols are arranged to be produced

on ~~such said~~ support in a sequence moving along ~~such said~~ path by supply of signals to the support from the signal-generating device.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

With this arrangement, although movement of the symbols is only simulated, such movement takes place along a physically shaped path (~~e.g. such as~~ a curved path) and thereby simulates more closely mechanical movement.

On page 9, please insert the following paragraph between lines 14 and 15:

Additional features and advantages of the present invention are described in, and will be apparent from, the following Detailed Description of the Invention and the figures.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

The invention will now be described further by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic perspective view of one form of a fruit machine according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a diagrammatic block circuit diagram of the machine of Figure 1; ~~and~~

Figure 3 is a perspective view of one form of a display device of the machine;

Figure 4 is a side view in detail of Figure 3; ~~and~~

Figure 5 is a view similar to Figure 4 of an alternative embodiment.

On page 10, please insert the following between lines 1 and 2:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

This feature game may comprise a wraparound trail, and a rotatable auxiliary feature reel 19 is visible through a window in the panel 2.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As shown in Figure 3, each of the reels 9 and 19 comprises a drum-shaped plastics skeletal framework 20 having two circular rims 21 linked by transverse ribs 22 at spaced intervals around the rims and radial arms 23 extending inwardly from one of the rims to a central hub 24.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The reel structure 20 so far described is conventional and would normally be completed by a translucent plastics reel bank fixed between the rim 21 around the entire periphery of the reel on top of the ribs 22. This reel band is conventionally printed with symbols, such as pictures of fruits, etc., at say twenty 20 equally spaced positions. Symbols on the band can be selectively back-illuminated with the light box 26 in the window 11.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The signal generating device 28 is operated to generate patterns or sequences of digital signals which cause symbols 50 to be produced in colour at twenty 20 equally spaced positions around the LCD band 27. The band 27 is translucent whereby the symbols 50 are backlit by the light box 26.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The signals may be predetermined, in accordance with data contained in a data storage device 29 connected to the control unit 12 to produce a predetermined sequence of symbols of predetermined kinds.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The arrangement may be such that the utilised data, and hence the substitution of a different data store 29 (e.g. EPROM or the like) and/or by switching between different resident data stores, or different sections of a single such resident data store. This changing may be achieved during a machine set up procedure by authorised personnel who have access to the interior of the machine and/or to protected control devices such as switches, remote connections or the like. Thus, it may be possible to change the symbol sequence from a remote control station via on-line, Internet or other remote link.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Alternatively or additionally, there may be provision for changes to be made by a player. Thus by use of machine controls 4, 5, 6 the player may be able to change games or game play options by selection from available ranges and this may automatically change, in corresponding manner, the symbol sequences e.g. to change the nature of the symbols 50-54 or the frequency of individual symbols 50-54 or the like.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Alternatively or additionally, changes may take place automatically in correspondence with events. Thus, symbols 50-54 may change ~~on~~ or a random, pseudo random or predetermined basis with parameters such as elapse of time, number of plays, periods of inactivity, or during play to enhance playing of a game by increasing variety or to reward a successful outcome of a game play feature, or otherwise.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

With the embodiment of Figure 5, instead of using a movable LCD strip 27, a short strip 30 is fixed over the light box 26 within the periphery of the reel 20 so as to follow a curved path

of similar diameter to that of the drum periphery, and signals are fed to the LCD strip to simulate movement of symbols through a predetermined sequence in correspondence with rotation of the drum structure 20.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Thus, when the drum structure 20 is static, three symbols 50-54 are defined on the strip 30 and displayed statically through the window 11 to the player.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 20 with the following rewritten paragraph:

With the embodiments described above, symbols 50-54 can be installed and changed in a particularly convenient and flexible manner without departing unduly from the desirable mechanical reel appearance.

On page 16, please cancel the first line and substitute with the following:

CLAIMS

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract:

ABSTRACT—FIGURE 5

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~A display device for a player operable~~ An entertainment machine having a display device including ~~has~~ a rotatable reel (9) with symbols around its periphery. The symbols are defined digitally on a support ~~(27, 30)~~, such as a curved LCD strip, by feed of signals from a signal generating device ~~(28)~~. The support (27) may rotate with the reel. Alternatively the support (30) may be fixed so that the reel (9) rotates but the support (30) is static. In this case, the support (30) extends round part only of the periphery of the reel and the feed of signals is such as to define symbols which move with the rotation of the reel. ~~(9)~~.